

COULD EASE SUBWAY TRAFFIC

MANAGER HEDLEY ADMITS HIS COMPANY MIGHT DO BETTER.

Side Doors for All Cars Would Increase Facilities 25 Per Cent.—Ten Car Express Trains Would Give 20 Per Cent. Increase.—The Interborough's Delay.

Chairman Wilcox of the Public Service Commission, at the resumed investigation by the board yesterday into conditions in the subway, compelled Frank Hedley, general manager of the Interborough company, to admit that if all the cars were equipped with side doors the carrying capacity of the tunnel could be increased 25 per cent. and that by lengthening the express train platforms so that ten car trains could be operated at 25 per cent. could be obtained.

Mr. Hedley also admitted that the order of the commission to have the express trains fitted with side doors by October 15 had not been obeyed. He explained that the company was converting the old cars as quickly as possible and said that although the company had ordered 150 new steel cars few of these had been delivered because the builders were unable to get the materials needed for their construction.

Mr. Hedley said that to reduce the present headway on the express line of one minute to forty-eight seconds to ninety seconds and also to operate one minute and a half local trains the company needed 368 cars, which would mean that it would be necessary to add only sixty-four cars to the present rolling stock. Hedley said that the new cars ordered by the company had been ordered 150 new cars. The reason for this, it was brought out, was not due to any consideration for the public but because the extra cars would be needed to make up for the percentage of cars always in the repair shops and to provide for what are known as "gap" trains.

Chairman Mr. Hedley was asked why the order of the commission to have the side door cars running on the express lines he said he did not understand that the order applied for the equipment by that time of all the cars with side doors and that if the order did mean that it was unreasonable.

"Well, that's the order you accepted in writing," said Commissioner Wilcox warmly. "do you remember telling the commission several times before last May," said Commissioner Eustis, "when the order was issued, that we needn't crowd our decision on the side door proposition because you had lots of time to complete the order before the fall and that you could get all the cars you wanted in ninety days."

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